

03500.015946.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Liang Che Wang
KOJIRO KATAYAMA ET AL.	)	
	:	Art Unit: 2155
Application No.: 09/987,486	)	
	:	Conf. No.: 7223
Filed: November 15, 2001	)	
	:	
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING	)	
APPARATUS, MANAGEMENT	:	
CONTROL METHOD,	)	
COMPUTER PROGRAM AND	:	
MEMORY MEDIUM	)	August 1, 2007

**Mail Stop: Issue Fee**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants submit the following comments on the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowability that accompanied the Notice of Allowance dated June 28, 2007. On page 9 it states that "the prior art of record does not teach providing, an external apparatus via a communication line, a delivery instruction for delivery of a new expendable and sending an alarm to the external apparatus via the communication line if a new reception of the absence information is received in said

receiving step after the delivery instruction for delivery of the new expendable is provided, and if the history information is present in the storage unit, and not sending an alarm to the external apparatus if a new reception of the absence information is received in said receiving step, and if the history information is absent in the storage unit...” However, Applicants respectfully submit that, in addition, the following limitations are not taught by the prior art: “a second storage unit, adapted to store history information indicating a history of the delivery instruction provided by said instruction unit” of Claim 10; “storing in a storage unit history information indicating a history of the delivery instruction provided in said providing step” of Claim 20; and “storing in a storage unit history information indicating a history of the delivery instruction provided in said providing step” of Claim 30.

Applicants’ undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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